

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Alexander C. Ranous et al.

Serial No.: 09/559,693

Filed: April 27, 2000

Docket No.: 10002147-1

Title: INTERNET USAGE DATA RECORDING SYSTEM AND METHOD EMPLOYING DISTRIBUTED DATA PROCESSING AND DATA STORAGE

stores the network usage information at the second level network data collector.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, further comprising a third level network data collector, wherein the third level network data collector receives processed network usage information converted to the standard data format from the first level network data collector or the second level network data collector, processes and stores the network usage information at the third level network data collector.

A 32. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the network usage information comprises at least one of network usage data or network session data, comprising at least one of a source IP address, a destination IP address, byte counts, packet counts, a time stamp and a username.

33. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein each first level network data collector comprises an encapsulator, an aggregator, and a data storage system, and the second level data collector is a correlator collector including an encapsulator, an aggregator, and a data storage system.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the first level encapsulator converts the network usage information to a standard data format, and the aggregator processes the converted network usage information including performing data reduction to provide aggregated data.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising a query manager in communication with the first level network data collector and the second level network data collector; and each aggregator includes a data transfer interval such that the aggregator transfers aggregated data to the data storage system at the data transfer interval, the query manager including a query interval where the second level data collector queries the first level data storage system for the aggregated data at the query interval via the query manager.

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36. (New) A method for recording network usage including storing network data in a multiple level data storage system, the method comprising the steps of:
- defining a set of first level network data collectors;
 - receiving a first set of network usage information at each first level network data collector, processing and storing the first network usage information set at the first level network data collector;
 - defining a second level network data collector; and
 - receiving the first network usage information set at the second level network data collector from one or more first level network data collectors, processing the first network usage information set to produce a second network usage information set, and storing the second network usage information set at the second level network data collector.
37. (New) The method of claim 21, where processing the first network usage information set includes converting the first network usage information set to a standard data format, and aggregating the converted first network usage information set.
38. (New) The method of claim 21, where receiving the first set of network usage information includes defining the network usage information to comprise at least one of network usage data or network session data.
39. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising querying the first level network data collector for the processed network usage information stored at the first level network data collector; and transferring the processed network usage information to the second level network data collector.